IPU

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APP: 10/621,013
TITLE: TRICORDER
ART UNIT: 2612

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL 708.02 SEC XI

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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To Whom It May Concern: February 11, 2006

  My name is Michael Niemi and below is my contact information. On 7/17/2003, I submitted an application for patent that ended up in the Camera/Television unit. Since you have the original patent outline and pictures for it, I will not duplicate those here. I would like to Petition to Make Special under Counter Terrorism under the rule 708.02 SEC XI.

  The reason why it ended up in this art work department is not clear, with the exception that it has camera and or television capabilities already patented, but is a small part of the overall use of the device. I talked to a Patents Attorney at your main office and he said there is no form or layout, so I will use my own.

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OVERVIEW:

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  The TRICORDER is a device or platform in which you can attach a single or number of low power sensors, GPS and Imaging technology on it to record all kinds of data. The idea was to make it extremely portable. So the Unit is based on Palm or Windows CE machine, is extremely lightweight, sits in a case that is hand held and runs off of 9 volt batteries. So the cost of producing the units in bulk is not a problem.

  The pitfall or probably its greatest asset is that sensors of all sorts can be added to detect smoke, heat, nitrates (bombs), radiation (Geiger Mueller tubes), record people or car license plates and take notes with a stylus by the security person/guard who has the device in a sensitive area. The sensors are very low powered, so they have to be very near a threat that is releasing chemicals or radiation into the surrounding air. Other devices that employ glass tubes and do mass patrimony may be high powered but are anchored to one spot. So portability is its greatest asset. Dogs that sniff for threats have to have years of training and care. And sometimes the Dogs give false alerts.

  The sensors are mounted so they are apart from each other, each does a very narrow band of chemical traces, and they are called upon to 'sniff' the surrounding air every 3 seconds so the battery has a chance to live long enough for an 8 hour shift. They

are industrial made sensors and have their own patents, and can survive different types of climates. The idea of combining all these individual elements may not be new, but the idea has not come to fruition anywhere. For instance, there are hand held Geiger Counters, but not in combination with sensors to detect Amonia/Nitrate bombs. So depending on the installation, any kind of sensor, and I can send you a list of these, can be used by one computer program that I wrote that runs on the Palm or Windows CE and alerts the user.

The idea that they are low powered and must be in close proximity to the bomb or threat may be a problem. But in the reverse, the amount of chemicals that Tim McVeigh used in making the Oklahoma City bomb was two steel drums if I recall, and he did not build it to prevent out gassing of Nitrates, so the amount of toxins inside the truck or even outside could be detectable very easily. Most sensors detect in parts per million.

The Breadboard that I used to pick up all the different signals from the devices, like serial or IIC, are there so that as few or as many devices the box can carry. They don't seem to create enough low level frequency noise to distract or interfere with the operation of one another and they are small enough, most sensing areas are about the size of a dime, where placing them inside the casing and away from other sensors, is not an effort. The Breadboards themselves can be networked to three at a time, making it possible to have a sensor load of 24 devices.

The Palm or Windows CE devices have software that runs independently of what the sensors and breadboard are doing to take notes, pictures, or other things. And these devices have their own means of communications. Like what happened at NYC on 9/11 and New Orleans with Katrina, communications were lost when cell phone towers either fell or lost power. While both some of the Palm and Windows CE devices do have cellular capabilities, they both can communicate with a single cradle to download information, and the Palms in particular have an added feature of the inferred hot synch method where two Palms can communicate on their own protocol. While the U.S. Government works on trying to make communications with first responder's universal, the devices have built in ways to communicate that doesn't depend on a large infrastructure.

Since 9/11 and whatever the NSA may be doing, America has become complacent in worrying about terrorism here. But you cannot account for everyone's actions who are not from overseas and whom may work independently. The Government employs guards and soldiers for this reason. Giving them an additional tool to help them isn't a bad idea.

RECAP:

1: CAN SENSE MULTIPLE THREATS AT ONE TIME.

2: CAN BE CUSTOMIZED FOR THE AREA TO STAY SECURE.

3. EASY TO OPERATE, EASY TO HANDLE, THE SENSORS WORK IN ANY ENVIROMENT.

4: CAN RECORD LIVE TELEVISION AND NOTES.

5: INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS ALONG WITH CELL PHONE, INTERNET AND OTHER LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS.

6: LOW POWER USAGE AND CAN BE VEHICLE MOUNTED.

7: CAN GROW AS SENSOR POPULATION GROWS. CUSTOMIZABLE.

8: PASSIVE, NON-INTRUSIVE DEVICE.

I hope I have outlined the use and purposes on how the Tricorder works enough to get it the patent to move along in a timely fashion. If you need additional clarification or other factual information, I would be happy to supply it. I created a brochure on the device and will send it along.

I would appreciate knowing if it will be moved to another artwork department or where this is going. My health isn't that well, as I am near 50 years old, and may have to make a formal request for health reasons. But I think this device should be considered with utmost haste.

Thank you for your time,

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